

OPINION 2251 (Case 3442)***Columba norfolciensis* Latham, 1801 (Aves, COLUMBIDAE): name suppressed**

Abstract. The Commission has suppressed the ambiguous binomen *Columba norfolciensis* Latham, 1801, which has been applied to three different species in different columbid genera within the last hundred years.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; COLUMBIDAE; *Columba norfolciensis*; Australasia.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power the name *norfolciensis* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Columba norfolciensis*, is hereby suppressed for the Purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The name *norfolciensis* Latham, 1801, as published in the binomen *Columba norfolciensis* and as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3471

An application to suppress the ambiguous binomen *Columba norfolciensis* Latham, 1801, was received from Richard Schodde (*Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra, Australia*) and Walter J. Bock (*Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University, New York, NY, U.S.A.*) on 23 October 2007. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 65: 124–128 (June 2008). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this case.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2009 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 65: 126. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2009 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 24: Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Brothers, Bogutskaya, Fautin, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Minelli, Ng, Patterson, Pape, Papp, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 3: Bouchet, Grygier and Lim.

Pyle was on leave of absence.

Voting FOR, Ng said that he was inclined to agree with the specialist body that had considered this matter at length as, in the context of the arguments presented, there were so many possible interpretations.

Voting AGAINST, Bouchet said that from his reading of the facts as presented in the application, he agreed with the authors that it was not desirable to replace the names *Columba leucomela* Temminck, 1821, or *Chalcophaps indica sandwichensis*

Ramsay, 1876, by the name *Columba norfolciensis* Latham, 1801. However, he noted that there was a strong possibility that Latham's name designated a Norfolk Island bird that is now extinct. Suppression of that name would leave the extinct bird without a name. He thought that was not desirable, hence voted against the proposals. Grygier, also voting AGAINST, said that it is not clear from the application how damaging the loss of the name *sandwichensis* would be, if a Norfolk Island specimen of *Chalcophaps indica* (belonging to this same subspecies) were designated the neotype of the older name *norfolciensis*; *sandwichensis* is only said to be an "in-use name", with no citations demonstrating its frequency or prevalence of use.

Original reference

The following is the original reference to the name placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

norfolciensis, *Columba*, Latham, 1801, *Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, sive Systematis Ornithologiae*, Leigh & J. & S. Sotheby, London, p. 60.